

Humboldt

- C H A M B E R -

Tuesday, January 05, 2010

Chairman Julius Genachowski
Commissioner Meredith Attwell Baker
Commissioner Mignon Clyburn
Commissioner Michael J. Copps
Commissioner Robert M. McDowell

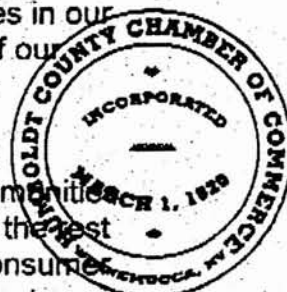
Federal Communications Commission
445 12th Street, SW
Washington, DC 20554
Re: GN Docket No. 09-191

Dear Chairman Genachowski and Commissioners:

As the FCC considers new rules and regulations in regards to net neutrality (GN Docket No. 09-191), I think it's important that you hear from the people and business owners across America. Not to be trite, because we've heard the term so often, but I'm not sure you could sell the need for these rules on Main Street, USA. Further, I know you would find great concern among rural and small business owners about the high potential for negative consequences when a group of people in Washington start messing with something as dynamic and ever-evolving as the Internet.

By way of background, I am writing you today as the head of the Humboldt County Chamber of Commerce. We are based in Winnemucca, Nevada, often called the Crossroads of the West. We have 200 local county businesses in our Chamber organization and we all depend on the Internet in some part of our daily lives and in our business.

Like many small and rural communities, we are thrilled that Internet and broadband has become much more accessible, reaching deep into communities like ours and in rural and underserved communities across Nevada and the rest of the nation. And, like most changes, this growth has been driven by consumer demand and with the help of a nimble market. We are concerned that the heavy-hand of regulation could stymie this type of growth and innovation and put businesses and families in rural and underserved communities at a distinct disadvantage.



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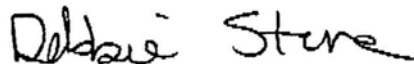
chamber@winnemucca.net

Like most areas of America, we want to maintain our abilities to access the Internet safely but as fast as we can and at the lowest possible price. Our businesses depend on the Internet as do our schools and families: it puts us on equal footing with our more urban neighbors, gives our business quick access to customers and suppliers, and ensures our families and schools have easier access to a wider world of knowledge, information and tools.

Any rules and regulations that inhibit the growth of new technologies, decrease access or increase costs would be abhorrent to us.

On behalf of the local businesses that we represent, and the families and schools that depend upon them, tread carefully.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Debbie Stone". The signature is written in a cursive, flowing style.

Debbie Stone
Humboldt County Chamber of Commerce